



**US Army Corps
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Walla Walla District

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Angler catches record fish at Dworshak Reservoir

AHSAHKA, Idaho – A new state record smallmouth bass was caught Saturday, Oct. 28, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Dworshak Reservoir near Orofino, Idaho.

Dan Steigers of Juliaetta, Idaho, caught the 9.72-pound fish, replacing his previous 8.31-pound smallmouth bass state record also caught in Dworshak Reservoir on Oct. 14, 1995, according to an Idaho Fish and Game news release. The new record bass measured 23.75 inches in length and 20.5 inches in girth.

"At first, I didn't really believe I'd caught another record fish. I'm pretty lucky, I guess," said Steigers, a 49-year-old Juliaetta native who spends much of his free time enjoying the outdoors. "I grew up on Dworshak...we (Steigers' family) were fishing there before it ever reached full pool after the dam was put in. I love the lake – if I'm not fishing, then I'm just bobbing around in my boat enjoying it."

Dworshak natural resource officials shared Steigers' excitement about the record catch.

"We're thrilled about the state record smallmouth being caught in Dworshak Reservoir for the second time in a row," said Paul Pence, Walla Walla District natural resource manager at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir. "Food source productivity in Dworshak Reservoir is low, so this is probably a very old fish – a giant for this species in this reservoir. It will be very interesting to see the effects of our nutrient supplementation program on bass and other aquatic species over the coming years."

The Corps' supplementation plan calls for adding nutrients to the water that will help bring phosphorus and nitrogen levels in the reservoir back into balance and encourage the growth of organisms to improve reservoir habitat and promote more food for fish, particularly kokanee salmon. The program is tentatively scheduled to begin in the Spring 2007.

Dworshak Reservoir, located near Orofino, Idaho, is about 54 miles long and has a surface area of about 20,000 acres extending into the Bitterroot Mountains. The reservoir provides substantial recreational and wildlife benefits. There are about 30,000 acres of project lands surrounding the reservoir used for public recreation purposes, wildlife habitat, wildlife mitigation, and log-handling facilities. Recreation opportunities include boating, water-skiing, fishing, developed and primitive camping, picnicking, hiking, and hunting. Visitation to Dworshak during fiscal year 2005 was 134,497. For more information, call the Dworshak Visitor Center at (208) 476-1255.

Idaho sportfish records are listed in IFG's annual fishing rule book and posted online at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/fish/> -- click on "Idaho Record Fish." State record sportfish application forms are available at IFG offices located in Lewiston, Coeur d' Alene, Nampa, McCall, Jerome, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Salmon and Boise. Fishers who believe they have caught a record-setting fish should first get the fish weighed on a certified scale; an IFG official must verify the catch. The national record is held by angler D. L. Hayes who caught an 11.9-pound smallmouth bass on July 9, 1955, in Dale Hollow Lake along the border between Tennessee and Kentucky.

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NOTE TO MEDIA – a photograph of Dan Steigers and his record smallmouth bass is available for download on the Walla Walla District Web site www.nww.usace.army.mil.

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